

## Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 236

FOLLOWING REPEAT USINFO 131950Z SENT STATE OPS CENTER INFO  
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM FOR JANKA DATED FEB 13.

QUOTE

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STATE OPS CENTER FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO DAVID GOMPERT  
FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP - IV (TAKE TWO OF THREE)

BEIRUT: PAPERS CONTINUED TO BE SHARPLY DIVIDED TODAY ON THE  
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE KISSINGER MIDDLE EAST TRIP. INDEPENDENT,  
ANTI-LEFT AN-NAHAR WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE U.S. INTENDS TO  
FACILITATE A SOLUTION BY PUTTING DECISIVE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.  
YESTERDAY THE PAPER HIGHLIGHTED THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF  
FAILURE FOR EGYPT. IT SAID, "IF KISSINGER'S MISSION DOES NOT  
END IN AN ACCEPTABLE AND REASONABLE SETTLEMENT, PRESIDENT  
SADAT WILL BE UNABLE TO GO ON CALMING THE ATMOSPHERE."

PRO-SYRIAN ASH-SHARQ ASSERTED THAT "THE KEY TO PEACE IN  
THIS AREA AND PROBABLY IN THE ENTIRE WORLD IS NOW IN THE  
HANDS OF THE ZIONIST ENEMY. (ISRAEL) AND THE ONE WHO IS  
HOLDING ITS HAND CAN FORCE IT TO SIGN WHAT NEEDS SIGNING...IN

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THIS LIGHT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PRESENT TOUR IS THE DECISIVE,

IF NOT THE LAST, VISIT BECAUSE TIME IS RUNNING SHORT, AND SO IS ARAB PATIENCE.

BOTH PRO-PLO AL-MUHARRIR AND PRO-IRAQUI BEIRUT FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME SUCCESS FOR THE LATEST KISSINGER MISSION BUT VIEWED THIS AS AN ISRAELI-AMERICAN VICTORY AND AN ARAB DEFEAT.

LONDON: BRITISH MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO THE KISSINGER MISSION, AS CORRESPONDENTS REPORTED AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE IN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM. THESE WERE AMONG TODAY'S HEADLINES: "DR. KISSINGER CONFIDENT OF PROGRESS" (THE TIMES); "KISSINGER ACHIEVES BREAKTHROUGH IN CAIRO PEACE TALKS" (DAILY TELEGRAPH); "TWO-TIER COMMITMENT BY EGYPT PLAN" (FINANCIAL TIMES).

CAIRO CORRESPONDENTS FOR THE TIMES AND THE FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTED SUGGESTIONS OF A "TWO-TIER PLAN" TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR EGYPT TO GIVE ISRAEL CERTAIN ASSURANCES THAT RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB STATES WOULD NOT PERMIT GIVING IN WRITING, AND AT THE SAME TIME PUT ENOUGH IN WRITING TO SATISFY ISRAEL'S NEED FOR FORMAL RECOGNITION BY AN ARAB BELLIGERENT.

THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S JOHN BULLOCH, IN CAIRO, JUDGED THAT "THE PROSPECT FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST SEEMED CLOSER THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR YEARS" FOLLOWING THE KISSINGER-SADAT TALKS. "NEVER BEFORE HAD THE TWO MEN BEEN SO OBVIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC AS THEY WERE WHEN THEY EMERGED FROM THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON WHAT DR. KISSINGER EARLIER DESCRIBED AS "PUBLICLY IRRECONCILABLE POSITIONS" BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL...THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THE TALKS BETWEEN...SDAT AND THE MAN HE STILL CALLS 'MY FRIEND HENRY' WERE TOUGH BUT THEY WERE HELD IN AN OBVIOUSLY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE."

BONN: WEST GERMAN PAPERS REPORTED THAT MR. KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT SADAT HAD EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM AFTER THEIR TALKS. SOME COMMENTATORS SAID THE SECRETARY WAS HAMPERED BY THE WEAK POSITIONS OF LEADERS WITH WHOM HE WAS TALKING. MANY PAPERS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD WARNED OF THE DANGER OF NEW WAR IF THE KISSINGER MISSION FAILS.

INDEPENDENT KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER SAID THAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF PROGRESS, NOTING THAT MR. SADAT HAD CALLED THE CAIRO TALKS "VERY FRUITFUL" AND MR. KISSINGER HAD SAID THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS WERE RECONCILABLE. THE PAPER CARRIED A JERUSALEM CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT THAT THE TALKS HAD RESEMBLED A SYMPOSIUM ON U.S.-ISRAELI ECONOMIC AND MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED

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RELATIONS RATHER THAN AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, PERMITTING THE CONCLUSION THAT THE U.S. WOULD OFFER ISRAEL GENEROUS MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT IF THE LATTER MADE FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO EGYPT. THE CORRESPONDENT SAID "INFORMED QUARTERS" IN JERUSALEM HAD INDICATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD ADVANCED FURTHER THAN WAS GENERALLY ASSUMED, AND CONCLUDED THAT PROSPECTS FOR A KISSINGER SUCCESS WERE "NO DOUBT BETTER THAN 50-50."

ON THE OTHER HAND, A BYLINER IN INDEPENDENT WESTDEUTSCHE ALL-GEMEINE CONTENTED THAT "EVEN ISRAEL SEEMS...NOT TO GIVE KISSINGER'S POLICY MUCH OF A CHANCE ANY LONGER. IN VIEW OF THE EXPIRING UN MANDATE...MORE AND MORE ISRAELI POLITICANS ARE...PRESSING FOR A RESIMPOTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE... BUT A MAJOR OBSTACLE LIES ON THE ROAD TO GENEVA: WHILE THE ARABS WANT THE PLO AT THE BARGAINING TABLE, ISRAEL SAYS NO AS IT DID BEFORE."

BOTH THE PRO-SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC NEUE RHEIN ZEITUNG AND THE INDEPENDENT WEEKLY DIE ZEIT NOTED WEAKNESSES IN THE LEADERS WITH WHOM DR. KISSINGER IS CONFERRING, STATING RABIN DOES NOT HAVE THE FINAL SAY AND IS FACED WITH A STRONG RIGHTIST OPPOSITION WHILE CAIRO IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO GO ALONG WITH A SEPARATE PEACE -- ARAB SOLIDARITY SETS LIMITS ON EGYPT'S LEEWAY. (END TAKE TWO) UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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